

ABSTRACT

A tuner 1 receives a TV-broadcast signal from an antenna 6. The TV-broadcast signal is supplied to a demodulator 2. The demodulator 2 demodulates the audio signal and video signal, both contained in the TV-broadcast signal. A CM-detecting section 4 is provided. In the section 4, characteristic patterns are generated at intervals of 15 seconds, 30 seconds and 60 seconds, from the audio and video signals. Then, CM candidates are detected in accordance with the characteristic patterns. Characteristic data representing the characteristics of a CM is extracted from each CM candidate or the audio and video signals preceding and following the CM candidate. The section 4 detects a CM from the characteristic data thus extracted.